



PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

Applicant(s): **STEFAN WIGGER, ET AL.**

Serial No.: **09/922,948**

Examiner: **T. M. McGuthry  
Banks**

Filed: **August 7, 2001**

Art Unit: **1742**

For: **HARDENING PROTECTION COMPOSITIONS  
FOR PARTIAL CARBURIZATION OF  
METALLIC COMPONENTS**

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sirs:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, Applicants are enclosing an Information Disclosure Citation Form (PTO-1449) and copies of the documents cited therein.

A copy of the Office Action from the German Patent Office regarding the counterpart German application is enclosed, as well as a translation thereof.. A check in the amount of \$180 is also enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that each cited document be considered by the Examiner in the above-identified patent application and that each cited document be made officially of record therein. It is further requested that a listing of the same appear on the face of any patent which may issue from this application.

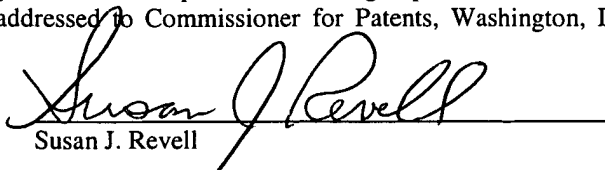
11/21/2002 TBESHAH1 00000062 09922948

01 FC:1806

180.00 0P

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, as first class mail addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 15, 2002.

  
Susan J. Revell

**RECEIVED**

**NOV 22 2002**


**TC 1700**

Application No. 09/922,948  
Docket No. 33713.003

---

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:   
Robert G. Weilacher, Reg. No. 20,531

Suite 3100, Promenade II  
1230 Peachtree Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3592  
Telephone: (404) 815-3593  
Facsimile: (404) 685-6893

LIT/785670.1

The asserted claim 1 concerns hardness-protection-measures on the basis of boric glass, which contain as an addition magnesium-silicon compounds.

The examining section ascertained the following state of technology, which however does not question the novelty or innovative activity of the above-mentioned application:

In the opposition (1) a method for the covering of metallic areas of surface during carburization or nitration is disclosed. As a means of covering a mixture of a boric compound and silicon dioxide is used (cp. Claim 8 in relation to page 3, column 4, line 56 through page 4, column 5, line 27).

Furthermore among others bentonite was mentioned as an addition to the covering paste (cp. (2) and (3)). Bentonite as a basic component contains montmorillonite, an aluminium-magnesium-hydrosilicate.

The applicant is invited, to include the writings (1) to (3) as state of the technology in the introductory description, where the advantages of the object of the request compared to the known are to be especially pointed out.

Since in the field of treatment of metallic surfaces the hardness-protection-measures, as called by the applicant, are usually called covering-masses or covering-pastes, we recommend the applicant to utilize this terminus technicus, too.

Upon the filing of the revised documents the issue of the patent can be held out.

Examining division C23C  
Dipl.-Chem Westfahl  
Number: 4356

Exhibits:  
3 oppositions

PTO/SB/08A (10-01)